

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT New SED Policy

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REFERENCES

CABLE

25X1 1. [] June 1953 a meeting of the Central Committee of the SED was held
25X1 in Berlin, at which the following orders were given:

- a. No further agricultural production cooperatives (Produktionsgenossenschaften) are to be established. Existing cooperatives are to be maintained and regularized.
- b. All farmers who have been apprehended while trying to flee from East Germany shall be released except those convicted of sabotage. They will be encouraged to go back to their properties, which are to be returned to them. This order is to apply also to the owners of large farms (Grossbauern), and such farmers are no longer to be detained in "reception camps".
- c. No additional farmers will be accepted as members in the production cooperatives which now exist.
- d. All judgments and judicial verdicts against farmers will be reviewed.
- e. In principle, no more legal actions are to be brought against farmers for tax delinquency.
- f. Credits for working farmers are to be expanded.
- g. The services of the tractor stations will henceforth be made available for all classes of farmers.¹

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2. Walter Ulbricht is said to have taken part in the meeting and to have made the closing speech.
3. All copies of the last issue of the "Merkbuch fuer den Agitator" were recalled and removed from circulation. A new issue is being prepared, which will assert that the Soviet Union should not, for propaganda purposes, be used as the only example of true socialism.

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Comment: These orders apparently form the basis for the more conciliatory policy toward the peasants which was announced by the Politburo of the SED on 10 June.

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